

MY WATER APPEARS CLOUDY

LIKELY PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Hardness (excess calcium and magnesium carbonate in groundwater)	No. Although hardness is a nuisance because it causes decreased efficiency of water heaters and can shorten the life of water using appliances.	Is there scum or scale deposited on tubs, showers or humidifiers? Is it difficult to lather soap or shampoo? Are there spots on your dishes? Is there a build up of white material in your tea kettle?	Test your water for alkalinity and hardness. Contact a laboratory certified by DNR to perform calcium and magnesium analyses.	Installation of Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. Water softeners are the best option.	Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws.	No	University of Wisconsin Extension National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation

MY WATER APPEARS CLOUDY, CONTINUED

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Fine Sand or Silt from: an improperly developed well; an increase in pumpage; a sandstone well with a sloughing formation; or screen failure due to excessive incrustation	No. Although silt/sand is a nuisance because it can shorten the life of water using appliances and damage your well pump.	Is this a new well? Did the driller develop the well properly? Was the screen sized properly to prevent fine materials from entering the well?	Fill a glass or the bathtub, and let the water sit for awhile. Does sand drop to the bottom?	For a new well: Let the water run for a couple days. Sometimes this will clear out the fine materials. If this doesn't work contact your driller and request that he return to develop the well and/or determine what is causing the sand problem.	Yes, Well Drillers are required to develop the well properly after drilling.	No	Licensed Well Drillers
		Did silt/sand increase in your water following installation of a larger pump? Did you recently install a water fixture that uses large amounts of water? If you are pumping more water than before from a sandstone well, water can scour the open drillhole, causing sand to slough into the water.		Install a liner in a sandstone well. A liner can seal off a sloughing sandstone formation to keep sand/silt out of the water.	Yes, Well Drillers have the knowledge and equipment to install liners.	No	
		Is your well older? Has the sand increased gradually as water production has decreased? Maybe the screen has become incrustated so that water enters the well at higher velocities and erodes larger holes in the screen.		Replace the screen in a sand & gravel well; or install a screen where there is none.	Yes, Well Drillers have the knowledge and equipment to replace well screens.	No	